

# **Washington State Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting**

8:30am to 3:30pm

March 26th, 2005

Bellingham Public Library,  
210 Central Avenue,  
Bellingham, WA

## **Meeting Summary**

### **Attendance**

#### **BPAC Citizen Members:**

Todd Smith, Chair- North Central Region  
David Levinger, Vice Chair – Statewide Pedestrian Representative  
Mark Semrau, Past Chair – Northwest Region  
Pamela Arora – Northwest Region  
David McCulloch – Olympic Region  
Jennifer Campos – Southwest Region  
Barbara Culp – Statewide Bicycle Representative  
Greg Pezoldt - County Government Representative

#### **BPAC Ex Officio Members:**

Tim Hostetler, WSDOT Northwest Region  
T.J. Nedrow, WSDOT Olympic Region  
Rebecca Smith, WSDOT Eastern Region

#### **WSDOT Committee Staff:**

Charlotte Claybrooke, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

#### **Speakers:**

Mark Asmundson -- Mayor City of Bellingham  
Ellen Barton, Whatcom BPAC  
Julie Muyllaert, Bellingham BPAC

### **Introductions**

Todd Smith called the meeting to order at 8:35 am, and introduced Mark Asmundson the Mayor of the City of Bellingham. The Mayor addressed the importance of bicycle and pedestrian issues for safety, prosperity and health. He commended the Bellingham Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for their commitment and hard work to address today's needs and the needs of future generations. He admitted that at times it has been a struggle but he believes that the citizens of Bellingham understand the value of alternative transportation and he is optimistic about the future.

### **Public Comment**

Scott Thompson, Whatcom County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee – The FHWA goal to increase walking and biking trips to 15% is a good one. He would like to see walking and biking projects funded at 15%. David Levinger encouraged him to voice his request with the state legislature and that this is was a good week to do that.

Mel Roberts, Kent Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee – Presented a proposal for a project on Canyon Drive/Hwy 516 that would provide for a bike lane. Charlotte will make sure that the project description is included in the Washington Transportation Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Element Project List.

Michael Rosser, Point Roberts Non-motorized Transportation Committee made a presentation about the need for a network of public trails on Lilly Point and throughout the Point Roberts community. He indicated that it is a location that should have historic recognition. Todd Smith encouraged him to make sure that his project is in the Whatcom County Trails Plan, and that he should check with the Conservation District for potential funding. Barbara Culp offered technical assistance from the Bicycle Alliance for getting attention for their project.

An un-identified citizen encouraged the committee to visit the Pedal Project after the meeting at the local bike shop. She indicated that it is a good example of how a local business is supporting bicycling in Bellingham.

## **Presentations – Whatcom and Bellingham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees**

Ellen Barton of the Whatcom Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee provided a presentation. She reviewed the committees mission, goals, objectives, and accomplishments. (Copies of Ellen's hand out distributed during the meeting are available by contacting Charlotte Claybrooke at 360-705-7302 or emailing ClaybrC@wsdot.wa.gov). Ellen ended by asking if the BPAC had any advise for her committee. David Levinger encouraged them to consider finding out more about Active Transportation efforts. Barbara Culp recommended that they connect with the National Complete the Streets effort.

Julie Muyllaert of the Bellingham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee provided a presentation. She introduced the members of their committee that were in attendance, Carol Berry, Kim Brown, Wendy Scholtz, Ellen Barton, and Therese Kelliher. Her presentation included a brief history of their work, their vision (Complete pedestrian and bicycle networks in the city of Bellingham), accomplishments, needs and goals. (Copies of Julie's hand out distributed during the meeting are available by contacting Charlotte Claybrooke at 360-705-7302 or emailing ClaybrC@wsdot.wa.gov).

## **Northwest WSDOT Region Update**

Tim Hostetler presented information on a project planned for the I-5, Southbound Ramps at State Route 11, and Old Fairhaven Parkway in Bellingham. Construction will begin in summer 2006 adding a new traffic signal and added capacity to the I-5 southbound off ramp and installation of a new traffic signal at Old Fairhaven Parkway. Sidewalks & Bike lanes will be added on Old Fairhaven Parkway through the I-5 underpass. The City will close the intersection of Old Fairhaven Parkway and 32<sup>nd</sup> street to vehicle traffic, which will improve pedestrian safety at that intersection. For additional information about

the State Route 11 project, please visit WSDOT's website:  
[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/sr11\\_sramps\\_oldfairhaven/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/sr11_sramps_oldfairhaven/)

## **Special Event Policy Update**

Charlotte Claybrooke, David McCulloch, and Barbara Culp described the existing Event Policy for Non-Racing Events and some concerns that bicycle event planners have had with the policy. Charlotte explained that bicycle event planners and WSDOT staff have had several discussions to identify modifications that will improve the process. She outlined several first steps, 1) WSDOT will conduct an informational workshop for WSDOT Regional Staff, 2) an electronic notification process will be implemented, and 3) an appeal process will be offered. At the end of 2005 an evaluation will be done and additional changes will be considered. David McCulloch indicated that it is difficult to interpret the current policy and the proposed changes. He would like to see the entire set of events policy documents. Barbara Culp made a motion that the BPAC review the entire event policy package. David McCulloch seconded and the motion was carried. Charlotte will provide copies of the revised event policy by April 20, 2005.

## **WTP Bicycle and Pedestrian Element - All**

Questions:

- **How does this plan fit into Washington's Transportation Plan (WTP) ?** – The Bicycle and Pedestrian Element provides the detail behind the broad goals for biking and walking in WTP.
- **What is the timeline?** This plan will be finalized by fall of 2005 in connection with the WTP

Charlotte expressed a desire to reduce the size of the document so that it would be more user-friendly. She provided a condensed version that included the same information with duplications removed. The BPAC was asked to review the new version and provide final comments to Charlotte. During the next BPAC conference call, the committee will be asked to approve the revised plan. For a copy of the DRAFT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, contact Charlotte at 360-705-7258 or by email at [ClaybrC@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:ClaybrC@wsdot.wa.gov).

In addition, Charlotte informed the committee that she understood the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the Health and Environment Section of WTP will contain consistent and supportive information.

## **Approval of Meeting Summary from Prior Meeting**

The committee approved the October 2004 Meeting Summary with minor corrections.

## **Pedestrian Standards Update**

Charlotte informed the committee that work has just begun to update the WSDOT Design Manual, Pedestrian Chapter. She shared an updated version of proposed signal warrants

that would eventually be included in the update and asked for the committees input. Todd Smith suggested that a draft of the document should be sent to all members of the BPAC for review and comment. Charlotte will forward the documents to the committee for review and comment

### **Committee Work-session – All**

The committee worked to update the business plan. They reviewed the current plan, identified the most important components to keep, items that should be deleted and brainstormed a list of new work. Then the group voted to prioritize the work.

Visit the WSDOT website at: XXXXXXXXXX to view a copy of the BPAC's Business Plan for 2005-2007.

### **Next Meeting and Closing Comments**

The committee discussed the possibility of holding the next meeting during the first part of June on either the 4<sup>th</sup> or the 11<sup>th</sup>, in the North Central region. The last meeting of the year will be held in November in the Tacoma area.

The business part of the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm, followed by a walking tour of Bellingham's pedestrian facilities, hosted by the Bellingham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.